

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Frank W. Bratt Ag Center, Jamestown, NY 14701
District Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
May 23, 2013

I. **Meeting Called to Order:** 8:35 A.M.

A. Present:

Fred Croscut - Chairman	David Spann-District Field Manager
Bruce Kidder - Treasurer	Debra Kelley - Secretary
Allen Peterson - Vice-Chair	Rob Halbohm - NRCS
Megan Gregory - District Tech	Sheldon Hightower - NRCS
Frank J Gould - Legislator	Vince Horrigan - Legislator

II. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

MOTION by Peterson seconded by Kidder to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

III. **Treasurer's Report:**

MOTION by Peterson seconded by Kidder to accept the Treasurer's report and pay current bills.

A. **The following bills were approved for payment:**

SEE ATTACHED

IV. **Correspondence:**

A. Thank you from JCC for the donation for Earthfest 2013

V. **Reports:**

A. **Other Agencies**

1. **NYS Soil & Water Committee** - Jeff TenEyck - See Attached

B. **Committees**

1 **Personnel** - Tabled

C. **District Conservationist** - Rob Halbohm

1. **Program Updates**

a. **EQIP & AMA** - we had our normal sign up and all of the contracts have been approved and implementation has started on some of them. I am working on developing a connection to the Amish Farming Community to help them in their small farm operation.

b. **National Water Quality Initiative** - This was a new program last year and has been approved for this year. We have sent out a person mailing to all of the farms that we knew of in these watersheds. See Attached.

2. **Ag Center Update** - The floor plan for the new building is in Washington waiting for approval. Once the floor plan is approved the contractor has 120 days to get the building ready for us to move into.

District Minutes (NRCS Cont.)

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D. **NRCS Re-Organization** - Sheldon Hightower - We have rolled out our new plan. We used to have 4 administrative areas now we will have 3 areas across the state. Our old area was called

Batavia and now it will be called the West. I used to have 8 counties and now I have 15 counties in my area of responsibility. Also with this rollout we will have Field Teams; there will be 6 Field Teams in the west. An example of that is Chautauqua County and Cattaraugus County would make a team with Rob as the Team Leader.

E. **District Field Manager - David Spann**

1. **Panel Discussion at Library** - This was my first public appearance and I did more listening than speaking and what I did say the newspaper twisted around. I would like to thank Rob for the article in response to the slam in the newspaper on the agricultural community. See Attached
2. **State Envirothon** - Chautauqua Lake School will be representing us at the State event. Rob & Dave have been working with them to prepare for the event on May 30th. Megan and I will be going to the State Envirothon to help. Chautauqua County SWCD has not been there for many years.
3. **Conservation Field Days** - Is going on right now Dave and Dylan, one of our interns, are there with the display today and tomorrow.
4. **2% Projects 2013 & 2014** - Megan and I have been working on writing permit applications for some of the 2013 projects. Dave Wilson and his wife Peg have been working on applications for 2014 projects.
5. **Watershed Dams** - Megan and I accompanied Rob, NRCS Engineer and a County Engineer that was hired by the county, to talk about these dams and what needs to be done to them. The Chautauqua County SWCD is going to have a more active role with the maintenance of them.
6. **Tree Planting with Clymer School, DEC, SWCD @ Greg Raters** - This is a continuing effort between the agencies and the private landowners along French Creek, which is the main focus area for this project. We will continue to be involved with this project in the future. See Attached.

F. **District Secretary - Debra Kelley**

1. **Fish Stocking** - I have 100 grass carp for 18 pond owners coming in tomorrow. I have also sent out order forms for the spring fish stocking set for a June 7th delivery.
2. **Trees & Shrubs** - We have completed this program for the year. We ended up with 290 orders with an \$18,000 profit. The balance of the trees was donated to the Chautauqua County Landfill.

G. **District Field Technician - Megan Gregory**

1. **Workload** - I have been working on the 2% projects with Dave and learning about the various natural resources issues around the county and learning how to help fix them. I went to the dam inspections and learned about the dams and what they are used for. We have also been working on pond site evaluation, to see if the site has suitable soils for a pond.
2. **Certification Class** - on inspecting existing residential waste water treatment systems. This was put on by the

Health Dept. they are talking about changing the regulations in Chautauqua County. By taking this class I will be certified to do these inspections.

VI. Old Business

- A. **District Truck - MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to purchase a District Pickup Truck.

VII. New Business

- A. **Round 18 Contract Amendment - MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to approve the contract amendments for Round 18.
- B. **Health Insurance** - Now that we have a new employee starting if he is going to use our health insurance plan we should review the way it is administered.
- C. **AEM Year 9** - is starting we have submitted our application to Ag & Markets for the full amount. **MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to approve the application.
- D. **Round 19 Plan of Work** - we have submitted the Plan of Work for Round 19 to Jeff TenEyck for approval, once he approves it he will send it on to Albany.
- E. **Hydro-Seeding** - Vince Horrigan, The district hydro-seeding program is competing with private industry and I would like the board to consider making a policy not to seed on private residential property. The directors did not want to make a policy, but they will review each case individually to determine if it applies to the mission of the district.

VIII. RC&D - Next meeting will be September 9, 2013 at Slab City Organics.

IX. Water Quality

- A. Water Week was April 29 - May 5 at the Chautauqua Mall

X. **Cooperators** - none

XI. **Next Meeting** - Thursday, June 27, 2013, 8:30 A.M. at the Frank Bratt Ag Center, Jamestown, NY

XII. Meeting Adjourned

MOTION by Kidder seconded by Peterson to adjourn at 10:05 A.M.



Debra A. Kelley
Secretary



Fred Croscut
Chairman

